

## EnviroAlums Update: Endowment Established, E Reunion October 2009

Years of diligent effort to embrace the challenge of creating a durable future on the part of many in the Oberlin community have led to a major sea change at Oberlin. President Nancy Dye signed the “American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment” in December 2006, in spring 2007 the Trustees committed Oberlin to making all new construction at least LEED Silver--the Jazz Center will be LEED Gold--and on his first day in office, President Krislov met with David Orr indicating his commitment to the challenge of making Oberlin climate neutral.

In response to this sea change, EnviroAlums sought to create an endowment and in February 2008 received permission from the Development Office to raise funds for the EnviroAlums Endowment Support Fund. The E Steering Committee unanimously supported the idea and in February all given 5 year pledges. In March, the E membership was invited to make pledges. By May 2008 the Development Office had received in excess of the \$50,000, the amount required to make the Support Fund an official endowment! This means that beginning in fiscal year 2008-09, E will have the E Endowment interest to fund sustainability initiatives.

This spring E has funded about a half dozen student projects with its Student Fund. In anticipation of Endowment funds, E is seeking proposals in the \$4,000 range it initiate an innovative sustainability project.

During Columbus Day weekend fall 2009, E will have an Alumni Affiliate Group Reunion. It will be a time for E members and all graduates with environmental interests to return to campus to celebrate the past and consider the future. Please put the date on your calendar!